

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR LIMITING USE OF A SOFTWARE PROGRAM WITH ANOTHER SOFTWARE PROGRAM

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5 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention presents a system and method for the vendor of a primary software program ("primary vendor") to limit the use of a secondary software program with its primary software program, under a specific set of limiting preconditions, and to retain control over the issuance and duration of the limiting preconditions, where a primary software program is an operating system and a secondary software program is an application software program or a peripheral driver, and where a primary software program is an application software program and a secondary software program is a plug-in. One embodiment of the invention includes: providing a computer including a processor and a memory operably coupled to the processor; providing a first software program operably installed on the computer; providing a second software program capable of being operably installed on the computer and capable of being used interoperably with the first software program; modifying the second software program to include a specific set of preconditions limiting use of the second software program with the first software program; digitally signing the second software program including the specific set of preconditions; determining whether the second software program has been altered after the digitally signing; verifying that the specific set of preconditions limiting use of the second software program with the first software program is met; and running the second software program interoperably with the first software program if and only if (1) the determining determines that the second software program has not been altered after the digitally signing and (2) the verifying verifies that the specific set of limiting preconditions is met.